

# DRAGON USER

International edition

*The independent Dragon magazine*

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February 1995

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# DRAGON USER



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## How to submit articles

The quality of the material we can publish in  
Dragon User each month will, to a very great  
extent, depend on the quality of the  
discoveries that you can make with your  
Dragon. The Dragon computer was launched  
on to the market with a powerful version of  
Basic, but with very poor documentation.

Articles which are submitted to Dragon  
User for publication should not be more than  
2000 words long. All submissions should be  
typed. Please leave wide margins and be  
double-spaced (except between each line). Programs  
should, wherever possible, be computer  
printed on plain white paper and be accom-  
panied by a tape of the program.

We cannot guarantee to return every  
submitted article or program, so please keep a  
copy. If you wish to have your program  
returned you must include a stamped,  
addressed envelope.

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Lee (Front cover by Mike I Bower)

## Editorial

UNLIKELY THOUGH IT sounds, the future of the Dragon computer now depends, in no small part, on a Spanish TV company.

Burghard, the Spanish company which took over manufacture of the Dragon from the now defunct Dragon Data, hopes to stimulate Asian by having the Dragon adopted by Spanish TV as their equivalent of the BBC micro.

Burghard has not been slow to recognise the benefits which have accrued to Asian from its lucrative association with the BBC. Quite apart from the publicity value, there are considerable advantages in having 'official' backing. In addition, a TV tie-in could help set up the educational market — one regional education authority in Spain has already plumped for the Dragon.

This is not to say that Burghard's success in Spain is solely dependent on a TV contract. But, with companies such as Sinclair and Commodore making deter-  
mined efforts to increase their penetration in European markets, a TV link-up would certainly help.

As far as the UK is concerned, it is obviously important that Burghard secures its home market, since this will allow the company to devote more of its attention to the existing Dragon User base in this country. A flow of new software and machines will, in turn, help persuade UK retailers that the Dragon is not 'dead' just sleeping.



# OASIS SOFTWARE

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Basic Computer  
For the Dragon 32



U.K. RACING

## SPRINT BASIC COMPILER

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Dragon Professionals will find SPRINT BASIC a most useful addition to their Dragon 32 software. It is a powerful, easy-to-use, and efficient compiler for the Dragon 32. It allows you to write programs in BASIC and compile them into machine code, which runs much faster than interpreted BASIC. SPRINT BASIC is designed to be used with the Dragon 32, but it can also be used on other Dragon computers. It is a must-have for any Dragon Professional.



## MIND GAMES COMPENDIUM

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Over 40 fun games for just £19.95. This is a collection of 40 fun games for the Dragon 32 and 64. It includes a variety of games, including puzzles, strategy games, and action games. It is a great value for money and a must-have for any Dragon owner.

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# Letters

This is the chance to air your views — send your tips, compliments and complaints to Letters  
Page, Dragon User, 12/13 Little Newport Street, London WC2H 7PP.

## Carbon microphone

IN REPLY to Darren Cocking's enquiry about attaching microphones to the joystick socket (Dragon User November) — I managed this by using a carbon microphone (from a telephone mouthpiece) and so constructed a very simple oscilloscope (non real-time). The circuit is identical to that found in the 'building a lightpen' article in April's issue, with the cell replaced by the carbon microphone.

To improve my oscilloscope, I found it necessary to disassemble and rewire the machine code joystick routine (locations \$9041 to \$9088) in Ram with some alterations (only reading one of the four potentiometers for instance) that made it much faster. This enabled my program to read a value from 0-63 over 3,660 times a second.

Stephen Dawson  
55 Farnley Mead  
Harfield  
W Sussex

## Moans and groans

THANK YOU for a useful magazine with lots of tips and handy programs. I am not a games fanatic — I'm a bit too old and I really use my Dragon for more useful purposes, such as helping me check the eight Times Portfolio cards I've now acquired from various friends. I think the program is rather too restricted to offer to your readers.

I also prefer to write my own programs rather than buy commercial software. But, I was somewhat disappointed when I tried to purchase some games from my local multi-outlet national retailer for the family's amusement at Christmas. Having perused the columns of your magazine for a couple of months, I found several programs that took my fancy. The advertisements led me to believe they would be available from Boots, John Menzies, etc. As I live near Bath and Bristol, I have the choice of several large stores. For the course of Boots was about eight different pro-

grams, with Menzies fairly similar.

Now I know Dragon Data was bought by Bunchart, but at least 25,378 people read your magazine and sales of Dragons must have well exceeded that. So, where can I see what I want to buy? I suppose I must order direct and risk the quality. I think the multiple retailers have let us down badly, or are sales of software really so bad?

This brings me on to my next issue. Someone, some years back tried to market his software program and the market was set up for the £5.95 to £7.95 average price of programs. Various efforts have been made over the years to reduce this price, but I suspect they have been largely thwarted by the retailers who insist on their £2-£3 profit. If the average price of software was £2-£3, I feel sure sales would boom.

Finding the programs for your computer on the shop shelf is another problem. Little attention seems to have been given to making particular machine programs readily identifiable. If a standard colour code top or bottom band were used for each system, then finding what you are looking for would be much simpler.

Finally, in the moans and groans section, I would like for the industry (perhaps) to come clean and indicate more clearly what you can expect to get from the tape under the wrapper.

P Crooke  
Honeybank  
Brecon Hill  
Poultton  
Dorset

Retailers certainly seem to be extremely reluctant to stock any new Dragon soft-

## A question of intelligence

YOU MAY be interested to know that we recently received the following complaint and have advised the complainant that we will not be pursuing the matter. It is our view, in the facts available to us and in the particular circumstances pertaining to this complaint, there appears not to be a prima facie case for investigation under the terms of the British Code of Advertising Practice.

Subject of complaint: Your mail order advertisement claim for "Artificial Intelligence on the Dragon computer" took Dragon User.

basis of complaint: Complainant doubts that artificial intelligence has been named.

The Advertising Standards Authority  
Bruce House  
2-16 Torrington Place  
London WC1E 7HN

ware, hence the return to prominence of the mail order business.

## What's my line?

I HAVE recently upgraded from a 32 to a 64 and have two questions which I wonder if anybody can answer. (1) Can the serial port on the 64 handle the 1200 receive/TX transmit baud rate necessary for Prose? (2) As I seem to have one of the few 64s with the old 32 keyboard, is it possible to buy the significantly improved keyboard (on the 64 anyway)?

Douglas Carpenter  
74 Weysey Gardens  
Basingstoke

Dear Sir  
PS Keep up the good work.

## Value for money

FIRST, THANKS for a great magazine. Secondly, just had to write and say that our family of Dragon users have found the new Pocket Money software series, being marketed by Microdeal to be fantastic.

Great value for £1.99, with great sound effects and superb graphics. I have paid far more for software which hasn't been anywhere near as good. Great stuff, especially Tea Time.

Joan MacTavish  
48 Florence Street  
Lisieux  
Orford

## Madness and the Minotaur

I NOTICED in the November issue of Dragon User that you ask if anyone has completed Madness and the Minotaur. I have never actually completed it, but have scored 250 points which is close to finishing it. I had two treasures still to collect and I knew where one of them was located (I had one more treasure to kill), but not the other.

This is my favourite game and I spend hours engrossed in it (much to the annoyance of my husband). Twice I wrote to Dragon Data when I was stuck over something and got some useful tips from them.

However, one thing has not baffled — I have yet to find any use for the jewels. It is not a treasure. I have a feeling it can be opened, but I have never opened for me. Also, I still haven't worked out what makes the pack set give up its treasure — sometimes it has done so, but I haven't seen any particular reason for it doing so at that particular time. If you can help with these queries, I would be very grateful.

Rae Longmead  
287 Clarmore Lane  
Worfield  
Herts

## Software Top 10

|        |                   |                   |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 (1)  | Munchback         | Ocean             |
| 2 (5)  | Chuckie Egg       | A&F               |
| 3 (3)  | Dragon Chess      | Oasis             |
| 4 (7)  | Cuthbert in Space | Microdeal         |
| 5 (1)  | Martin Miner      | Software Projects |
| 6 (6)  | Mr Dig            | Microdeal         |
| 7 (10) | Santa Magic       | Knight Software   |
| 8 (2)  | Hungry Horace     | Melbourne House   |
| 9 (8)  | Kriegspiel        | Boydell           |
| 10 (9) | Rug Driver        | Mastertronic      |

Chart compiled by Websters Software



# RETURN OF THE RING

THESE RESULTS  
CAN  
EASILY BE USED TO  
PREDICT THE  
FUTURE OF THE

## At least the dog

The Guardian of Shenzhou is defeated, the Hall of Spangled Horrors of the Everlasting Ice of Icey, New Kingdoms, wielder of the Four Bright Rings, must face the greatest challenge: to return the Ring Of Darkness to its creators on the hidden planet Ringworld... And somewhere at the ends of time the forces of evil are preparing their...

After one year of development, Wintarselt are proud to present the most sophisticated game ever created for the Dragon 32. Written 100% in machine code, **RETURN OF THE KING** is an astounding multi program blend of superb high resolution colour graphics and advanced routines that allow you to communicate with your computer in complete sentences. You will have challenge and excitement as you and your Ringworld companions travel a mysterious planet and brave the dangers of an amazing three-dimensional forest moon. An epic adventure controlled for its wealth of detail and diversity.

Many funds involved present results.

Please note: **RETURN OF THE KING** is a complete adventure. You need not buy **THE KING OF DAMNATION** to play it.



WINTERSOFT  
SOFTWARE

**Abstract**

[illegible]

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Return of the King   | 129.99 |
| The Ring of Darkness | 69.99  |
| Dragon's Lair        | 24.99  |

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# Ket rises to new summit

INCENTIVE SOFTWARE is converting its highly-acclaimed adventure series, the Ket Trilogy, to the Dragon.

## OS9 accounts package

COMPUSOFTSE PLANS to release an integrated OS9 accounts package in the next two to three weeks. It will cost approximately £200 and will be available for the Dragon and other OS9 machines such as the Tandy colour computer.

A Flex version of the accounts package is also planned, but it will not be ready for another two months, according to Managing Director Ted Croydon.

More information from Compuserise at 2950 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, London N13 5BA.

## Go North young man

NORTHERN DRAGON users will have the opportunity to see some of the latest software and peripherals at the Pudsey microcomputer show on Saturday, March 16. The show, organised by Northern Premier Exhibitions, will cater for a range of machines including Dragon, Amstrad, Commodore and Sinclair.

Admission costs £1 for adults and 50p for children. The show will be held at the Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, Pudsey, West Yorkshire, from 10 am to 5 pm.

The series is being translated from the Spectrum by John Martin and should be available in March.

Mountains of Ket, Temple of Vain and The Final Mission — the three games which make up the Ket Trilogy — were launched in 1984 with a £400 video recorder awaiting the first person to completely solve each adventure. Sadly, for Dragon owners, Incentive believe that a winner will probably be announced before Dragon versions of the game are released.

The impetus behind Incentive's decision to convert the Ket Trilogy to the Dragon comes



from the company's recent success with Back Track. This program, which was launched in September, has already sold several thousand copies.

The Ket Trilogy is likely to cost about £10 and will only be available as a three-pack — the adventures will not be available separately. For a full review of the Ket Trilogy see our sister publication Micro Adventurer, September 1984.

# Spiderman follows Hulk

SPIDERMAN IS here. Marvel Comic's famed super hero has been brought to the Dragon courtesy of Scott Adams' Adventure International.

The game, which costs



£7.95, is a text-only adventure and features some of Spiderman's old foes such as Hydro-Man and Lizardman. The aim of the game is to collect a

number of gems and thus satisfy the chief examiner that you are worthy to do battle with an interstellar enemy, who will appear in a later adventure.

Adventure International has also announced that all its earlier adventures will also appear on the Dragon during January. This covers Scott Adams' adventures 1-12 and the previous Questprobe adventure — The Hulk.

Those people who find adventures difficult to solve



## Exit Edna

CABLE SOFTWARE has withdrawn one of its latest games, *Exit Edna*, due to technical problems. However, the company's two other recent additions to its Dragon range, *Far-Flap Fight* and *Home Base* are still available at £6.95 each.

will be glad to know they can buy a text book with clues to all the Scott Adams' adventures and the Questprobe adventures for £2.99. Details from Adventure International, 85 New Summer Street, Birmingham B11 3TE.

## Repeat performance

THE SECOND 6666 Colour Show for Dragon and Tandy users will take place on March 30 and 31. The show will be held at London's Royal Horticultural Halls and admission will cost £2 for adults, £1 for children.

For further details contact the show organisers, Computer Marketplace (Exhibitions) Ltd, 20 Orange Street, London (Tel: 01-600 1812).

## Fruit machine

FRUITY IS a high-resolution fruit machine simulation recently released by London-based Impact.

The game, which was originally sold by Dragon Gate under a licensing agreement, costs £4.95 and features holds, nudges and gentles wins.

Copies of the game are available mail order from Impact, 149 Balfour Hill, London SW12 9DU.

# Channel 8 in new ice age



CHANNEL 8 Software is releasing three new adventures for the Dragon — *Midwinter*, *After the Fire* and *Beyond the Ice* — in its Mysterious Adventure series. Each game costs £5.95 and should be launched in February.

Norman Penlan of Channel 8 explained that *Midwinter* is set in a modern ice age. The main protagonist has just 12 days in which to find a device to melt the ice, otherwise the world will be locked in ice forever.

*After the Fire* is set in the

aftermath of a nuclear holocaust, while *Beyond the Ice* takes place in a universe so far distant that the normal laws of time and physics are suspended.

All three games have been duplicated on what Norman Penlan calls "smart tapes". These tapes will work on both the 32 and 64, but the graphics data will only be loaded on a 64. Thus, if you have a 32, the adventures will be text-only, but if you upgrade to a 64 you will have the benefits of graphics as well.







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# Dragonsoft

New software for users should be sent to Dragon User, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2H 7PP.

## Telepath

**Program:** Telepath. Sisp Software, 171 Malden Road, Colchester, Essex. Price: £7.50.

WHAT, you may ask, have computers got to do with telepathy? The answer comes in the form of a do-it-yourself ESP tester called Telepath. The program starts by asking for your name, and then poses through a rather long list of questions, all printed in lower and upper case on the hi-res screen.



You are next asked if you would like "a short audio history [of telepathy] with

graphics demonstration". Pressing "Y" returns a prompt to turn over the tape, which you play while the computer goes through a very nice graphics routine. The "audio history" consists of a man speaking against a background of spooky synthesizer music, and isn't exactly comprehensive, but quite interesting all the same.

Finally the program comes to the ESP test itself. This proved to be rather disappointingly dull, involving seemingly endless repetitions "which don't am I thinking of" questions, to which the user proposes one of the keys 1-5. The tests consist of groups of 25 "guesses", and at the end of each group the program prints the number of correct guesses in that group, as well as your running total. The user may then continue with the test, start again, lengthen or shorten the test duration, and do a variety of other things including quit.

As there are five cards to choose from, and 25 guesses per group, the program points out that if guessed at random, a non-telepath could expect to score five per group. I scored four.

David Rowntree



## Katerpillar

**Program:** Katerpillar 2. Microdeal, 40 Truro Road, St Austell, Cornwall. Price: £8.50.

KATERPILLAR is an arcade-type game for which you will need joystick to play. It is written in machine code and operates on the high resolution colour mode of MODE3. This gives a range of colours which it uses to give some variety to the display. The program is obviously well designed, as the game runs at an entertaining speed and the button responses as well as joystick responses are good.

The basic idea is that the player controls the direction in which the "laser" gun points with the joystick, and fires the gun with the button. Suitable space invader-type noises are emitted when the gun is fired

at a variety of noises which try to obliterate the player(s). Suitable sound effects are included.

This game can also be played by two players if a pair of joysticks are plugged into the computer. Among the attacking insects are Tanatulas, Scorpions and Beetles, not to



mention the "Katerpillar" is itself, of course.

To complicate matters the screen is also covered with mushrooms which influence the behaviour of the Katerpillar. Some of the mushrooms are "magic" ones and others may be "killer" types. These have drastic effects upon the Katerpillar, which makes the game a lot more interesting.

As you get more expert at

this game and progress to the next level, things get steadily more difficult and faster, eventually becoming impossible. This title has been voted a great hit in my house by all ages and definitely gives good value for a high-speed arcade-type game.

John Jay Davies



## Time Police

**Program:** Time Attack. Tudor Williams, 15 Southwell Road, Basing, West Midlands WV14 8PD. Price: £7.95.

THIS IS one of those programs that is hard to categorise. It tries to be a game and an educational program, but fails on both counts.

The object of the game part is to destroy the evil Time Police and their computer.

The player is first presented with a timeship control panel. A little experimentation reveals that the "up arrow" and "down arrow" keys move the ship forward and backwards through time, and "E" places the player outside the ship. If the latter is selected the computer draws a low-res picture of the timeship's surroundings at the particular year you have arrived at. This usually consists of a group of buildings which, although colourful,

doesn't differ much from year to year.

Once outside, providing the player isn't arrested or shot at, there are three courses of action he or she can take. If there is an old timeship lying around, any remaining fuel can be transferred to the player's ship. If the Time Police Computer happens to be outside, the lucky player can shoot it up. If all else fails, pressing "E" takes you back into the timeship to try another year.

The educational part of the program comes in the form of the "Mind Probe", this devious Time Police weapon asks you history questions, and then shoots you if you get them wrong. A lot of effort has obviously gone into this program, the aim of which seems to be to "bring history to life", but it doesn't really succeed, and the overall effect is not up to scratch.

David Rowntree



## Snow Queen

**Program:** Snow Queen. Cambrian Computers, 15 Derwent Close, Penryn, Cornwall TR11 7TT. Price: £5.95.

HERE IS yet another supposedly educational type of game, in which the player has to find the letters of a word presented in a confusing mess of black and white squares. The letters to be found are formed using the coarse squares of the low resolution format of Dragon Basic.

A blue coloured rectangle must be placed over the required letter using either a combination of numbers, and cursor arrow keys to direct the rectangle to its next position or

a joystick to serve the same purpose. This has to be done against the clock and a score is accumulated as the player proceeds through the different words set. The length of words





set can be varied according to the level of difficulty required.

The problems are "set" by the "Snake Queen" whom the player pleases by obtaining the correct answer. The successful player is rewarded by marks and a rather tedious display attempting to imitate a snake crystal.

It appears to me that this program was written for a lesser machine than the Dragon as it does not make use of its graphics capabilities in any way. Although the program has been written in Basic it repeats the tedious drawing of the "snake crystals" each time, using the LPRINT command.

Much better crystals could

have been formed using the DRAW command and then storing them with GET and recycling with PUT. This would have been much better, but would not have overcome the fundamental problem of this program in that the letters to be identified are very difficult to recognise because some of them, especially the "W", "M" and "I" are very odd. My children (ages six, nine and 11) soon gave up on this game.

To summarise therefore, not a bad idea but poorly written and of little appeal to children (mine anyway).

lots up Gaynes



## Pogo Stick

**Program:** PG-GO-JO, J Morrison Micros, 4 Hain Gardens, Trimley, W Yorks WF3 1JF. Price: £3.95.

MORE AND more Cubert clones are appearing for the Dragon these days — "Blockhead" from Touchmaster, and "Cubert" from Toys Mix to name but two. The latest is from J Morrison Micros.

In case anyone hasn't seen a version of this game, the

colourful, but the graphics are limited to cubes and springs. At least there is a black background which makes a nice change to the usual green that 99 per cent of software seems to use.

Having sat down, the game goes into its demo mode, which shows all 15 different screens (different arrangements of cubes) whilst playing a catchy tune. This is allowed to start at any of the 10 screens on any level (1-4). The level simply determines how many enemy springs will roam over the screen — as



object is to guide an object, in this case a shiny spring, over a 3D display of joined cubes. Landing on one changes its colour, and changing the colour of all the cubes takes you on to the next level. Falling off the edge or being landed on by one of the nasties loses a life.

PG-GO-JO is a particularly nice version as it makes excellent use of semi-graphics 34 mode. This allows text and 64 x 192 graphics in all eight colours to be used at once. The display is therefore very

these are not intelligent it is not difficult to avoid them using a little care.

As usual with Morrison games now, there is a full of fun, and an opportunity to enter your name at the start of the game. There is also to choose between various versions of the Cubert game, but as PG-GO-JO is only £3.95, it would seem the best value for money.

Brian Cudge



## Dungeon

**Program:** Dungeon Raid, Microdeal, 41 Turo Road, St Asaph, Gwent. Price: £3.00.

DUNGEON RAID is an example of an arcade adventure game — a type that has grown to be more popular recently. As such it combines the exploration aspects of an adventure game with the quick fingers usually necessary to avoid aliens.

This game starts off by allowing you to choose the background colour and the difficulty level from 1 to 3. You control a small figure who appears to run down a long corridor containing different rooms. The illusion is achieved by keeping the figure still and scrolling the walls up the screen past him.

There is only a limited amount of time to pass through each room, and you must not touch any of the walls. In each room are snakes, rats, and snappers that you must avoid by use of the joystick. These can be shot by pressing the fire button which releases a blast

downwards. This is also the way in which you can open the doors between each room.

To provide some extra interest, inhabiting the labyrinth are "clones" which look just like your own figure. If you shoot these by mistake, you lose a reserve man (if there are any left). Each time you destroy one of the creatures, a type of shock wave bounces



out to both side walls and back, which is probably more of a problem to avoid than the creatures themselves.

John Screen



## Yumping Yack Flash

**Program:** Yumping Yasser, Knight Software, 10a High Street, Llan, Ceredigion T56 1UD. Price: £3.95.

YET ANOTHER "Donkey King" arcade game derivative, but with a difference. It is written in machine code and the quality of the graphics and sound are good. All the instructions you need to play the game are included in the program and you can choose to have them shown or not.

The basic idea is that "Yasser" has to jump from one platform to another in a series of "rooms" to get a key which is needed to open a door on the other side of the room, and a number of jumps away. Just to make things interesting, a variety of monsters wander about and unless you are careful, Yasser will be either munched by a monster, break his head on the roof, or shatter his ankles by falling too far.

The movements can be controlled either by joystick or from the keyboard. All movements are accompanied by

good sound effects giving quite an enjoyable game. With experience one can learn to anticipate the movement of the monsters and after several games you proceed to new rooms with different patterns to tackle and fresh monsters to avoid. All this is set against the clock. The less time you take, the higher your score. A very enjoyable game which appealed to all ages in my house.

The only drawback to this program is that exactly the same pattern of obstacles occur each time the program is run and the monsters seem to move in a preset pattern. With some experience therefore, you do learn how to get the better of each part of the game. Even so it will take a long time to run out of all the rooms, and monsters available, as each pattern is significantly different from the others. Overall therefore this is a good game.

lots up Gaynes





















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DASM is a versatile assembler, designed especially for ease of use on the DRAGON and allows you to assemble machine code while still retaining the full use of BASIC. Supports all 6809 instructions and modes. Allows any length for labels (the first 5 and the last characters are used). Full support for output to printer. Recommended for the beginner. £14.95

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POSTAGE AND PACKING  
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# Dumping on the Epson

**Alan Winsley** shows you how to print out high-resolution graphics on an Epson

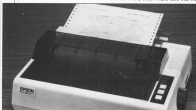
THIS IS A program for the Dragon 32 which enables pictures drawn on the high-resolution screen to be printed on an Epson printer, in either single or double density mode. The whole screen can be dumped to the printer with a single key-press, or alternatively a rectangle of any shape and size can be defined on the screen and then printed. This latter feature enables you to design logos or alternative type-faces for letter-headings, for example.

Place a cursor in the top-left-hand corner of the screen. If you wish to dump the whole screen simply press **Alt**, and skip the rest of this paragraph. If you want to select part of the screen you should move the cursor around with the arrow keys. You must define your rectangle at the top-left, top-right and bottom-left corners. To do this, place the cursor over the top-left and press **U**; over the top-right and press **R**; and over the bottom-left and press **B**. These can be defined in any order. Make sure that the

When you are satisfied that all three positions have been correctly defined, press the Clear key. The screen will now ask you to choose between single- or double-density (press 1 or 2). As soon as you have done so the information will be fed to the printer. The remainder of the program translates the data in the screen memory, which is arranged horizontally, into the data required by the printer, which must be arranged vertically, eight rows at a time.

Locations 17ED to 17FF hex contain the control codes which are sent to the printer. The printer is first initialised with ESC (1B), which contains any previous control codes. It therefore, you want to send any printer codes before the first routine, for example to set margins, you must bypass this initialization by moving 2000 into location 17ED (which contains 2000) and then 2000 before loading the routine. The next three bytes send ESC "A" to the printer to set 14mm line spacing, which ensures that each line is printed immediately below the previous one.

At the start of each line the printer is fed with ESC "i", which sets the bit-image mode, and three further bytes to specify the density and the number of bits in the line. The contents of these three bytes are requested automatically by the receiver. In



Programs written in Basic can take several minutes to dump an entire screen to this one if written entirely in machine-code. It occupies 401 bytes of RAM between locations 32347 (HMM hex) and 32767 (FFFF hex). In single-density mode, an entire high-resolution (that is PMODE=1) screen is printed in 32 seconds, or 48 seconds in double-density mode.

The program can be entered using the text editor program in figure 1. When finished, it can be saved as a machine-code program in the normal way, that is: `CREATEM "PROGRAM", 20487, 20487`.

|            |       |   |            |        |
|------------|-------|---|------------|--------|
| 20047      | 44502 | 8 | 884 - 74   | 2000   |
| Others     | 31828 | 3 | CMR - 6 76 | 8848   |
| space for  | 31826 | 3 | 884 - 5    | 2640   |
| construct  | 31820 | 3 | 878 1020m  | 887777 |
| The soil   | 31811 | 3 | 886 - 80   | 2000   |
| within the | 31810 | 3 | CMR - 60   | 8850   |
| your plot  | 31810 | 3 | CMR - 8    | 2640   |
| there be   | 31810 | 3 | CMR - 8    | 2640   |
| there can  | 31810 | 3 | CMR - 8    | 2640   |
| PROCEDE    | 31810 | 3 | CMR - 8    | 2640   |
| signi- up  | 31810 | 3 | CMR - 8    | 2640   |
| times if   | 31810 | 3 | CMR - 8    | 2640   |
| the promt  | 31810 | 3 | CMR - 8    | 2640   |
| do not     | 31810 | 3 | CMR - 8    | 2640   |

two top positions are on the same horizontal row of the screen, as otherwise you will probably print garbage. Moving the cursor up or down one row at a time takes an age, so to speed it up you can press the Ctrl key together with the up or down arrow key.

|  | 7050 | 7060 | 7070 | 7080 | 7090 | 70A0 | 70B0 | 70C0 | 70D0 | 70E0 | 70F0 | 70100 | 70200 | 70300 | 70400 | 70500 | 70600 | 70700 | 70800 | 70900 | 70A00 | 70B00 | 70C00 | 70D00 | 70E00 | 70F00 | 701000 | 702000 | 703000 | 704000 | 705000 | 706000 | 707000 | 708000 | 709000 | 70A000 | 70B000 | 70C000 | 70D000 | 70E000 | 70F000 | 7010000 | 7020000 | 7030000 | 7040000 | 7050000 | 7060000 | 7070000 | 7080000 | 7090000 | 70A0000 | 70B0000 | 70C0000 | 70D0000 | 70E0000 | 70F0000 | 70100000 | 70200000 | 70300000 | 70400000 | 70500000 | 70600000 | 70700000 | 70800000 | 70900000 | 70A00000 | 70B00000 | 70C00000 | 70D00000 | 70E00000 | 70F00000 | 701000000 | 702000000 | 703000000 | 704000000 | 705000000 | 706000000 | 707000000 | 708000000 | 709000000 | 70A000000 | 70B000000 | 70C000000 | 70D000000 | 70E000000 | 70F000000 | 7010000000 | 7020000000 | 7030000000 | 7040000000 | 7050000000 | 7060000000 | 7070000000 | 7080000000 | 7090000000 | 70A0000000 | 70B0000000 | 70C0000000 | 70D0000000 | 70E0000000 | 70F0000000 | 70100000000 | 70200000000 | 70300000000 | 70400000000 | 70500000000 | 70600000000 | 70700000000 | 70800000000 | 70900000000 | 70A00000000 | 70B00000000 | 70C00000000 | 70D00000000 | 70E00000000 | 70F00000000 | 701000000000 | 702000000000 | 703000000000 | 704000000000 | 705000000000 | 706000000000 | 707000000000 | 708000000000 | 709000000000 | 70A000000000 | 70B000000000 | 70C000000000 | 70D000000000 | 70E000000000 | 70F000000000 | 7010000000000 | 7020000000000 | 7030000000000 | 7040000000000 | 7050000000000 | 7060000000000 | 7070000000000 | 7080000000000 | 7090000000000 | 70A0000000000 | 70B0000000000 | 70C0000000000 | 70D0000000000 | 70E0000000000 | 70F0000000000 | 70100000000000 | 70200000000000 | 70300000000000 | 70400000000000 | 70500000000000 | 70600000000000 | 70700000000000 | 70800000000000 | 70900000000000 | 70A00000000000 | 70B00000000000 | 70C00000000000 | 70D00000000000 | 70E00000000000 | 70F00000000000 | 701000000000000 | 702000000000000 | 703000000000000 | 704000000000000 | 705000000000000 | 706000000000000 | 707000000000000 | 708000000000000 | 709000000000000 | 70A000000000000 | 70B000000000000 | 70C000000000000 | 70D000000000000 | 70E000000000000 | 70F000000000000 | 7010000000000000 | 7020000000000000 | 7030000000000000 | 7040000000000000 | 7050000000000000 | 7060000000000000 | 7070000000000000 | 7080000000000000 | 7090000000000000 | 70A0000000000000 | 70B0000000000000 | 70C0000000000000 | 70D0000000000000 | 70E0000000000000 | 70F0000000000000 | 70100000000000000 | 70200000000000000 | 70300000000000000 | 70400000000000000 | 70500000000000000 | 70600000000000000 | 70700000000000000 | 70800000000000000 | 70900000000000000 | 70A00000000000000 | 70B00000000000000 | 70C00000000000000 | 70D00000000000000 | 70E00000000000000 | 70F00000000000000 | 701000000000000000 | 702000000000000000 | 703000000000000000 | 704000000000000000 | 705000000000000000 | 706000000000000000 | 707000000000000000 | 708000000000000000 | 709000000000000000 | 70A000000000000000 | 70B000000000000000 | 70C000000000000000 | 70D000000000000000 | 70E000000000000000 | 70F000000000000000 | 7010000000000000000 | 7020000000000000000 | 7030000000000000000 | 7040000000000000000 | 7050000000000000000 | 7060000000000000000 | 7070000000000000000 | 7080000000000000000 | 7090000000000000000 | 70A0000000000000000 | 70B0000000000000000 | 70C0000000000000000 | 70D0000000000000000 | 70E0000000000000000 | 70F0000000000000000 | 70100000000000000000 | 70200000000000000000 | 70300000000000000000 | 70400000000000000000 | 70500000000000000000 | 70600000000000000000 | 7070 |
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# Go Flex

Brian Cudge looks at an alternative to OS9

IF YOU ARE thinking of moving up to a professional operating system for your Dragon, then an alternative to OS-9 is Flex from Compuserve. The minimum system required is a 64K Dragon and a disk drive, though two disk drives are preferable.

The Flex disk is supplied with a hefty 260 page manual which describes all the commands and the editor/ assembler which is included on the system disk. Also included is a booklet describing a few extra features added to the standard Flex set up for the Dragon implementation. Unfortunately, I have not seen a copy of the latter.

It is advisable not to use your original disk, but is immediately make a backup copy and use this to boot Flex (one crash could wipe out the disk). Once installed onto the disk drive, Flex is started using the `BOOT` command. After a few seconds the screen goes into 51 column mode, (using Mode 4 graphics) and asks for the current date to be typed in.

The disk supplied has a demo program installed as the startup procedure which "welcomes" you to Flex (this can be deleted from the disk once you're familiar with the package). This is a Flex prompt to signal that it is waiting for a command. The first one to try is `CAT` which shows a directory of the disk — various parameters can be added to the command so that only certain types of file are listed etc. The size of the file is also shown.

As with OS9, the `BUILD` command allows you to enter a file from the keyboard. The `EXEC` command can be used to include this file as a set of instructions. You might, for example, build a file with the necessary commands to copy the disk on a fresh disk in drive 2.

A powerful `TTYSET` command allows you to alter just about every attribute associated with your terminal, as this is never anything but a Dragon running Compuserve's standard 512 column display, this will seldom be used.

A certain degree of IO redirection is possible. Sending output to a file or printer, rather than the screen, and taking input from a file, rather than the keyboard, are all supported.

The Flex Operating System is comprised of three parts: the File Management System, which allocates disk space; the Disk Operating System, which interfaces the programs and the RMS to the Dragon disk drives; and the utility command `RAT`, which has the commands such as `CAT`, `DELETE`, `BUILD`, etc. All of these are stored on the disk and are only loaded when called by the user. Flex itself is stored in `Ram` starting at `$C000`, which just happens to be where the Dragonos is stored on `Ram`.

Also included on the Flex disk, as mentioned earlier, is an Assembler/Editor; the editor is used to prepare text files for the assembler. It is a fair text editor, but is in no way a word processor. The assembler is the program worth looking at.

A file is assembled by copying the assembler, called `ASSEMB` and following this by the filename of the source code. A number of options can be added to do things like: generate no object code, suppress the assembled listing, suppress the printed table output and suppress warning messages.

The assembler uses the standard Motorola mnemonics, so most assembly language programs for the Dragon can be entered with the minimum of changes. However, there are some very powerful features that most Dragon assemblers do not offer. Disk files can be assembled in part of the program, using the `L80` directive, several conditional assembly constructions using `IF` are supported, such as:

```
IF <expression>
    Conditional code goes here
ENDIF
```

Finally, perhaps the most powerful option is to include macros into your program. Macros are similar to subroutines, except that when called the code is inserted at the current location. Therefore, three calls to a macro results in three copies of the same code in your program — not very efficient. Macros really become useful when you start using them with parameters — the basic construction of the code is the same each time, but the memory addresses used are different and are supplied as parameters in the macro call. Using conditional assembly statements in the macro itself allows very powerful programming techniques to be used.

If you want to know more about the Flex operating system then there is an advanced programmers guide available. This is certainly not written for the beginner and none of the information included in it is needed to use Flex efficiently. But if you fancy writing your own Flex commands, or customising your system, then you will find all the information here.

A memory map of all the user calls... routines is included, as well as a list of the useful locations used by Flex. There are sections on the OS9, the file management system, the disk drivers, printer driver and writing your own utility programs. Assembly language examples are liberally scattered throughout the text. Again the manual refers only to Flex, and doesn't mention the Dragon or any particular implementation.

Just released is `DBASIC`, which allows you to use the standard Microsoft Basic in `Ram` with Flex. When loaded, `DBASIC` copies the `Ram` into `Ram` and cold starts the Basic. There are additions, such as `OSAVEF` to save a file on to a Flex disk, and `CLDRAD` to load it back. Using the `EXEC` command with a string, instead of an address, allows you to pass a command directly to Flex, such as `EXEC "CAT"`, which will directory the disk.

The cassette filing commands, `OPEN`, `CLOSE`, `INPUT`, `PRINTF` etc have been extended to handle up to eight files at once — either serial data, random access or text files can be specified. Channel numbers 1-8 are used.

There are also extensions to the `CLS` command to use the frame 51 column text screen, so you effectively get Compuserve's `H-Flex` cartridge built in. Existing programs can be loaded and will run, with the exception of those that use Dragonos commands. This package is only really intended as a cheap alternative to a complicated Basic running under Flex, and to maintain compatibility with present Dragon programs.

Finally, also available for Dragon Flex is the `RMS` database, which is also available for the OS9 operating system. The record management system allows you to store just about any type of record you want, such as personnel, customer, accounting, or club files.

`RMS` will create the file to store the details for you, and then request the information in form-fit style — that is, you fill in a form on the screen for each record. Once this is done, you can search for and update records from the keyboard. `RMS` will also produce printed reports to the specification given in a file.

`RMS` consists of several modules, to create a new database, to input and edit the file, and to print the reports. All data is saved in the standard `ascl` format, so `RMS` files can be read by other Flex programs and languages such as `Basic`. `RMS` takes some getting used to, but once mastered it is a powerful record management system, if not quite a database.

Inevitably, Flex is going to be compared to OS9, and to be honest it comes off worst. Although it has more primitive software than OS9, as an operating system it is much less powerful. There is no multitasking available, no piping of data to concurrent programs, and in certain ways it is more clumsy to use. Having said that, the Flex system disk is probably worth buying, just for the Assembler included on it, as this is certainly the most powerful I have seen running on the Dragon.

For the assembler-editor, Flex gets 10 out of 10, but for an operating system I would plump for OS9.

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Flex disk & saved    | OS9.25 |
| Advanced Programmers |        |
| guide                | £11.50 |
| RMS database         | £70.00 |
| Basic                | £30.00 |







# High-speed Compiler

Brian Cudge looks at the Dynafast compiler from Compuserve

IF THERE is one disadvantage of Basic, it's that it is slow compared to machine code. Of course, this is more than made up for by the fact that it is easier to learn and much easier to use and debug.

The reason Basic is slow is that each command is taken one at a time and "interpreted". This interpretation takes no account of whether the command is in a loop or whether a branch has been previously executed. For example, every time a branch is made to a line, that line is searched for starting at the first line of the program. Even if the program has jumped there previously, no note of its position is made. An interpreter is therefore in many ways inefficient.

## Intermediate code

Alternatively, a language can be compiled into "intermediate" code before running, using a Compiler. This "intermediate" code is really a cross between Basic and machine code. All jumps are replaced by actual machine addresses and space for variables is reserved during compilation. Of course, a compiler cannot produce code that is as efficient as a true machine code program, however, compiled programs can run many times faster than interpreted ones.

The latest Basic compiler to appear for the Dragon is "Dynafast" from Compuserve — available either on disk or on cartridge. The version reviewed here is on disk.

Dynafast is capable of compiling any working Basic program even including the DragonDOS extensions, but to make best use of the advantages of a compiler some changes are necessary. The compiler offers both floating point numbers (as used by normal Basic) and integer numbers in the range -32768 to +32767. The advantages of using integers is that they only occupy two bytes per variable, whereas floating point numbers use 7 bytes. Integer variables are also accessed much faster than floating point ones as the 16 bit capabilities of the 68000 central processing unit are used directly.

So, to get the best speeds out of your compiled programs, integer variables should be used wherever possible (for

example in for-next loops, counters and integer arrays). Dynafast requires that all integer variables are declared at the start of the program in comment lines, together with their storage address. For example, the line:

```
20 00000 I J
```

tells Dynafast that the variables I and J are integers and are to be stored at addresses 000001 and 000003. Floating point numbers are only really necessary for large numbers and scientific applications, using SIN, COS and so on and although these are supported by Dynafast, you will not gain any increase in speed by using them.

Once you have a working Basic program that you wish to compile, all that is needed is to load Dynafast and tell it the name of the program on disk (or tape) and the name of the output file (if you want to save the compiled program), also the mode of compilation. The options available are FAST (the program is compiled at full speed), NORMAL (the program is compiled with each line displayed with a short pause), STEP (the enter key is pressed after each line has been compiled) and PRINT (the output goes to the printer). Error messages and warning messages are clearly displayed during compilation and most programs compile in a matter of seconds.



The compiled program is run using EXEC and the break key is disabled (there is an option to have the break key checked if required). All integer arithmetic is fully compiled and floating point and other special commands (for example graphics) are semi-compiled — at runtime the ROM is called directly. The compiled program is put into memory where the original Basic one was, so this can no longer be used. Subsequent use of RUN will run the compiled program.

I tried six tests for speed using Dynafast, some were the example bench marks supplied on the disk, some were my own. The results are shown in figure 1.

Clearly, the compiled programs run much faster when using integers. Using floating point operations as in BASIC offers very little time saving.

In addition to the compiler, two other programs are included on disk — Dynasort and Dynasref. Dynasref analyses a Basic program producing a cross reference table showing variables and constants. Once loaded you simply load your Basic program to be analysed and type EXEC. There are several options available by adding a colon and characters after the exec, for example EXEC A2 will only list variables (values whose first character is between A and Z), and EXEC T will only list string variables.

## Dynasref display

The display constantly shows what Dynasref is doing and once completed the program can be listed with the variable table to either the screen or the printer. Clearly, this program is of little use to the Basic programmer, but used in conjunction with the compiler it can help you to decide what variables can be changed to integer ones in existing programs.

Dynasort intelligently compresses Basic programs by the following methods:

1. Removing all spaces.
2. Deleting unnecessary ROM's.
3. Combining several lines into one. This process will nearly always save you a lot of memory and will often speed up programs (although not very significantly).

When used on a program before compilation, the resulting compressed program also takes less memory. It is wise to keep a copy of the original program as compressed versions are very difficult to read however!

To summarise, Dynafast from Compuserve is a very professional package, all programs are easy to use (Dynafast even has "help" pages for each step) and the manual supplied is excellent. The disk (or tape with cartridges) also contains some test and demo programs to get you started.

The major advantage of Dynafast over its rivals is its ability to handle ALL Basic commands, even if some are only directed to the ROM. This does mean that any working program can be compiled with very little alteration. The price is not cheap, £29.95 for Cartridge or Disk, which is twice the price of the Basic compiler, but Dynafast offers more features. If you want faster programs and can't live machine code, then Dynafast should be your first choice. ■

|     | Interpreter | Compiler  | Test                   | Figure 1: the results of a speed test using Dynafast |
|-----|-------------|-----------|------------------------|--|
| B#1 | 1.45 secs   | 0.40 secs | FOR-NEXT               |  |
| B#2 | 10.34       | 7.40      | Counter loop           |  |
| B#3 | 19.82       | 0.74      | Integer calculation    |  |
| B#4 | 17.12       | 5.20      | 5000 COS/SIN's         |  |
| B#5 | 25.10       | 24.10     | Floating Point calcs   |  |
| B#6 | 16.50       | 15.64     | Print a number (1000x) |  |



# DRAGON OPEN FILE

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## Meander

From Keith David in Sussex

MEANDER is a strategy board game for two players. The object of the game is to form a continuous line from the top left corner of the board to the bottom right

corner, or to leave your opponent off the edge of the board.

To form the line, one of three possible pieces are placed at the end of the existing line. These pieces will cause the line to change direction, and sometimes to loop over itself. The program will automatically search for the end of the line, so in order to place a piece, it is only necessary to type in its identity letter. The three pieces are permanently displayed on the side of the board, for reference.

### Program Notes

#### Lines

150-450 Draw the board.  
450-770 Search for the end of the line.  
Line 770 checks whether the next space is usable, and if it is not, causes a repeat search.  
480 and 780 Check for the two different ways of ending the game.

When typing the program, all PEEKs may be omitted.

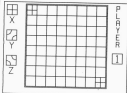


Fig. 1. The board at the start of a game.

```
10 REM MEANDER
20 REM INITIALISATION AND TITLES
30 DIM X(11),Y(11),Z(11),A(9),
  95
40 P1$="BXZ29,122;R2M2U1402"
50 P2$="BXZ27,122;NR6U5C2R463U3H2L
  402"
60 CLS
70 PRINT#73,STRING$(11,"*")
80 PRINT#105,"* MEANDER *"
90 PRINT#137,STRING$(11,"*")
100 FOR I=1 TO 1000:NEXT I
110 PRINT#224,"DO YOU WANT INSTRUc
  TIONS? (Y/N)"
120 IF INKEY$="I" THEN 120
130 IF INKEY$="Y" THEN 890
140 REM DRAW BOARD
```

```
150 PMODE4,1:PCLS:SCREEN1,1
160 FOR Y=12 TO 112 STEP 50
170 LINE(8,Y)-(128,Y+20),PSET,B
180 NEXT Y
190 DRAW"BM18,12;B10M,10M;10M;10"
200 CIRCLE(8,82),10,5,1,0,,35
210 CIRCLE(28,82),10,5,1,1,5,,75
220 CIRCLE(28,112),10,5,1,1,25,,5
230 CIRCLE(8,132),10,5,1,1,75,1
240 DRAW"ML4,34;M22,40;BM14,40;M2
  2,34"
250 DRAW"BM14,86;M18,92;ND6;M22,86
  "
260 DRAW"BM14,136;RM14,140;RM"
270 SET(8,12)-(128,32),X,B
280 SET(8,82)-(128,82),Y,B
290 SET(8,112)-(128,132),Z,B
300 FOR X=48 TO 208 STEP 20
310 LINE(X,12)-(X,172),PSET
320 NEXT X
330 LINE(44,18)-(1210,174),PSET,B
340 FOR Y=12 TO 172 STEP 20
350 LINE(48,Y)-(1208,Y),PSET
360 NEXT Y
370 PUT(48,12)-(168,32),X,PSET
380 PUT(168,132)-(1208,172),X,PSET
390 DRAW"BM28,22;U10R6DSL6"
400 DRAW"BM228,34;N110R6"
410 DRAW"BM228,50;USNM4UE1R4F18"
420 DRAW"BM231,44;USNM228,54;M234,
  54"
430 DRAW"BM228,78;NR6U5C2R463U3H2
  402"
440 DRAW"BM228,92;U10R5F18381NLSM2
  34,92"
450 LINE(122,165)-(124,125),PSET,B
```



```

460 REM PLAY
470 FOR I=0 TO 9:FOR Y=0 TO 9:A(X,
Y)=0:NEXT Y,I
480 A(1,1)=1:A(8,8)=1:I=50:Y=20:X1
=70:Y1=20:P=2
490 IF X1>200 OR X1<40 OR Y1>172 O
R Y1<12 THEN GOTO
500 ON P GOTO 510,520
510 DRAW"CO"+P18+"CS"+P28:P=2:GOTO
530
520 DRAW"CO"+P28+"CS"+P18:P=1
530 I$=INKEY$:IF I$="" THEN 530
540 IF I$<"X" OR I$>"Z" THEN 530
550 ON ASC(I$)-87 GOTO 560,580,400
560 PUT(X1-10,Y1-10)-(X1+10,Y1+10)
,X,PSET:A(1(Y1-2)/20,(X1-38)/20)=1
570 GOTO 530
580 PUT(X1-10,Y1-10)-(X1+10,Y1+10)
,Y,PSET:A(1(Y1-2)/20,(X1-38)/20)=2
590 GOTO 530
600 PUT(X1-10,Y1-10)-(X1+10,Y1+10)
,Z,PSET:A(1(Y1-2)/20,(X1-38)/20)=3
610 GOTO 530
620 REM SEARCH FOR END OF LINE
630 ON A(1(Y1-2)/20,(X1-38)/20) GO
TO 640,660,720
640 IF I$=X+20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
+20:Y1=Y1:GOTO 760
650 IF I$=X-20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
-20:Y1=Y1:GOTO 760
660 IF Y1=Y-20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
:Y1=Y-20:GOTO 760
670 IF Y1=Y+20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
:Y1=Y+20:GOTO 760
680 IF X1=X+20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
:Y1=Y-20:GOTO 760
690 IF X1=X-20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
:Y1=Y+20:GOTO 760
700 IF Y1=Y-20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
+20:Y1=Y1:GOTO 760
710 IF Y1=Y+20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
-20:Y1=Y1:GOTO 760
720 IF X1=X+20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
:Y1=Y+20:GOTO 760
730 IF X1=X-20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
:Y1=Y-20:GOTO 760
740 IF Y1=Y-20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
-20:Y1=Y1:GOTO 760
750 IF Y1=Y+20 THEN X=X1:Y=Y1:X1=X
+20:Y1=Y1:GOTO 760
760 IF X1=178 AND Y1=162 THEN 790
770 IF A(1(Y1-2)/20,(X1-38)/20)=0 T
HEN 490 ELSE 630
780 REM END TITLES
790 FOR I=1 TO 20:SCREEN 1,0:SOUND
100,1:SCREEN 1,1:SOUND 150,I:NEXT
I
800 CLS:IF P=1 THEN PRINT#71,"PLAY
ER 1 WINS." ELSE PRINT#71,"PLAYER
2 WINS."
810 GOTO840

```

```

820 FOR I=1 TO 20:SCREEN 1,0:SOUND
100,1:SCREEN 1,1:SOUND 150,I:NEXT
I
830 CLS:IF P=1 THEN PRINT#64,"PLA
YER 1 LOSES BY GOING OFF EDGE" EL
SE PRINT#64,"PLAYER 2 LOSES BY GOIN
G OFF EDGE"
840 FOR I=1 TO 1000:NEXT I
850 PRINT#448,"PRESS SPACEBAR FOR
ANOTHER GAME."
860 I$=INKEY$:IF I$="" THEN 860
870 IF I$=" " THEN 100 ELSE STOP
880 REM INSTRUCTIONS
890 CLS
900 PRINT#302," THE OBJECT OF 'MEAN
DER' IS TO COMPLETE A CONTINUOUS
LINE FROM THE TOP LEFT CORNER OF T
HE BOARD TO THE BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER
, OR TO FORCE YOUR OPPONENT TO CA
RRY THE LINE OFF THE EDGE OF THE
BOARD."
910 PRINT:PRINT" SIMPLY TYPE IN TH
E LETTER OF THE PIECE YOU WISH T
O PLAY TO CONTINUE THE LINE."
920 PRINT#451,"PRESS ANY KEY TO CO
NTINUE."
930 I$=INKEY$:IF I$="" THEN 930
940 CLS
950 PRINT:PRINT" THE FIRST PIECE W
ILL BE PLACED ON THE SECOND SQUARE
OF THE TOP LINE, SO PLACING PIECE
'Y' AS THE FIRST MOVE OF A GAME
WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOSE THE GAM
E."
960 PRINT#356," PRESS ANY KEY TO P
LAY."
970 I$=INKEY$:IF I$="" THEN 970
980 GOTO 150

```

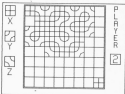


Fig. 2. A possible position after 29 moves. If Player 2 now plays piece 'X' he will lose. If he plays piece 'Y' he is bound to win.



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# Directory

From R. Paterson in Leicester

THIS IS A fast-loading location program modelled on M. McPartin's program published in the July 1984 edition of *Dragon User*.

The program utilizes arrays and data statements, and in the listed format represents a blank master which can be loaded, then listed and the data statements amended to the required contents of a particular tape. The amended program is then saved at the start of the tape, and the first program on the menu is also saved.

The tape is then reloaded, and the

directory used to locate the second program by fast forward wind, and after this is saved the tape is again reloaded and the directory used to locate for program 3.

The program is easily adapted to suit any size of tape, the numbers given being those found from experience to suit a C-90 cassette divided into 18 segments to allow storage of 1800 programs.

If a different sized tape is used the user can adapt the array size to suit the contents and amend the data lines to suit his programs.

A dummy save run using a stop watch can help determine what value to use for the loading value for fast forward.

## Program notes

50-170 Sets up variables and fills arrays.

170-220 Displays first half of menu and allows selection.

200-260 Repeats process for page 2 of the menu.

410 Caters for selection of non-existent program by error or to locate tape for saving.

420-490 Supplies prompt messages and motor switching for fast winding.

510 Advice ready for saving.

520-550 Supplies prompts for loading program and erasing.

570-590 Data lines. The numbers are gained by experiment, providing six to eight seconds of tape winding per program at fast speed. The lines should be amended as shown and then details of times and properties added when used.

```

5 REM *****
10 REM *** DIRECTORY ***
20 REM * WITH FAST FORWARD *
30 REM * R. PATERSON 7/84 *
40 REM *****
50 CLEAR 1000: DIM X(18), NP$(18)
60 FOR N=0 TO 18: READ X(N), NP$(N):
NEXT
70 CLS: PRINT@224, STRING$(32, CHR$(1
72)): STRING$(12, "+"): "DIRECTORY": S
TRING$(11, "+"): STRING$(32, CHR$(163
74)
75 FOR D=1 TO 1000: NEXT: CLS
80 C$="PLEASE PRESS FAST FORWARD K
EY"
90 D$="ON THE TAPE RECORDER"
100 E$="THEN PRESS THE SPACEBAR"
110 F$="PLEASE PRESS THE PLAY BUTT
ON"
120 G$="PLEASE WAIT"
130 H$="SEARCHING FOR"
140 J$="LOADING"
150 P$="SORRY NOTHING LISTED YET"
160 C=195: B=199: E=232
170 CLS
180 PRINT STRING$(14, "+"): "MENU": S
TRING$(14, "+"): STRING$(32, CHR$(163))
190 PRINT@75, "PAGE 1 OF 2"
200 FOR N=1 TO 9: PRINT "  ", NP$(N),
",", NP$(N): NEXT N
210 PRINT "PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE
ABOVE"
220 PRINT "OR PRESS enter FOR NEXT
PAGE"
230 INPUT N$: N=VAL(N$)
240 IF N=0 THEN 300
260 IF N<1 OR N>9 THEN 270 ELSE 400
270 SOUND200,4:GOTO 170
300 FOR I=1088 TO 1477:FOR J,143:N
EXT
310 PRINT@75, "PAGE 2 OF 2"
320 FOR N= 10 TO 18: PRINT "  ",
",", NP$(N): NEXT N
330 PRINT "PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE
ABOVE"

```

```

340 PRINT "OR PRESS enter FOR PAGE
ONE"
350 INPUT N$: N=VAL(N$)
360 IF N=0 THEN 160 ELSE 370
370 IF N<10 OR N>18 THEN 380 ELSE
400
380 SOUND200,4:GOTO 310
400 REM * FAST LOCATION *
410 CLS: IF NP$(N$)="*****" THEN
PRINT@75, P$: PRINT "PRESS 'C' TO CONT
INUE": PRINT "OR PRESS 'R' TO RETURN
TO MENU" ELSE GOTO 450
420 A$=INKEY$: IF A$="" THEN 420
430 IF A$="R" THEN 170
440 IF A$="C" THEN 420
450 CLS: IF N=1 THEN 500
455 PRINT@C, G$: "04," "05"
460 A$=INKEY$: IF A$="" THEN 465 E
LSE 460
465 TIMER=0: MOTOR ON
470 CLS: PRINT@C, G$
475 PRINT@60, H$: " ", NP$(N$)
480 IF TIMER/50>=X(N) THEN 490 ELS
E 480
490 MOTOR OFF
500 REM * LOADING *
510 CLS: IF NP$(N$)="*****" THEN
PRINT@75, F$: FOR N=1 TO 1000: NEXT: P
RINT "TAPE POSITIONED FOR SAVING"
PROGRAM " ", N: STOP
520 PRINT@C, F$, " "04," "05"
530 A$=INKEY$: IF A$="" THEN 540 E
LSE 530
540 CLS: PRINT@C, J$: " ", NP$(N$)
550 PRINT@C, G$
560 SCREEN 0,1: LOAD
570 DATA 0, ,0, ,5, ,
,10, , ,16, , ,24, ,
,32, , ,40, , ,48, ,
,57, ,
580 DATA 65, , ,72, , ,8
0, , ,87, , ,94, ,
,101, , ,107, , ,114, ,
, ,121, , ,130, ,

```





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# Alien

From S. Accopard in Malta  
THIS is a short program to draw an

alien creature of a lovable nature. It is  
up to you to guess what it is.

```
5 REM*****DRAGONET*****
10 PHORE3,1:SCREEN1,0:POL81
20 DRAW*BM130,170,81AC402L11UC2L13
EUCH2UHL1HL1HL1HL1U1L1UMH2UHL2U1
H1U2H1U2E2U2E4H1E1H1O1IR1E1R2R2F
1R4H1E2F5000100020L1104L2640161016
1000100"
30 DRAW*BM-15,-30,03R3F20162L104L1
H1L1H1U2L1"
40 DRAW*BM+10,+1:U2E2R2F1R101F102L
3H3"
50 DRAW*BM-1,+10:U1H201H1L101L101L
101R1F1R1E1R2F1E1R2"
60 DRAW*BM+1,-10:H10101F1E1U1;BM-4
,0:H10101F1E1U1"
```

```
65 PAINT1120,1601,4,4
70 DRAW*BM=7,-2:G2D2F1R1"
80 DRAW*BM+10,-1:L1+2U2E2"
90 PAINT100,650,2,4
100 PAINT1150,550,2,4
110 DRAW*BM60,100;C4E5F105L2E3"
120 PAINT162,1771,4,4
130 CIRCLE103,1601,2,2
140 PAINT103,1601,2,2
150 FOR1=1T0500:NEXT1
155 CIRCLE103,1601,3,4
160 PAINT103,1601,4,4
170 FOR1=1T0500:NEXT1
180 GOTO130
```

# Stock control

From Mark Barnett in Warwickshire  
THIS is a stock control utility program  
which uses data lines to read the informa-  
tion into arrays where they can be edited

and sorted.  
All instructions are included as REM  
statements. The arrays can be enlarged  
and more data added quite easily.

```
900 REM*****
950 REM***** STOCK CONTROL *****
970 REM***** BY MARK BARNETT *****
980 REM***** 12/5/1984 *****
990 REM*****
1000 REM BASIC STOCK CONTROL
1010 REM SELL=STOCK NUMBER
1020 REM DESC=DESCRIPTION
1030 REM CP=SELL PRICE
1050 REM DIS=PRESENT IN STOCK
1060 REM DIS=INDEX FOR STOCK NUMB
ER
1080 GOSUB3000:REM INITIALISATIONS
1100 GOSUB1000:REM PRINT OPTIONS:1
MENU:
1130 PRINT"ENTER REQUIRED OPTION";
1140 INPUT OP
1150 IF OP=0 OR OP=4 THEN GOTO
1160 IF OP=1 THEN GOSUB 1000
1170 IF OP=2 THEN GOSUB 2000
1180 IF OP=3 THEN GOSUB 4000
1190 IF OP=4 THEN END
1210 GOTO 1100
1300 REM SUBROUTINE INITIALISATION
1310 REM READ NR
1320 DIM S(NR),DESC(NR),CP(NR),DIS
(NR)
1330 GOSUB 1400:REM INITIALISE IND
EX
1350 GOSUB 1500:REM READ STOCK FILE
1370 RETURN
1400 REM SUBROUTINE INITIALISE IND
EX
1410 FOR I=1 TO NR
1420 IN1(I)=1
1430 NEXT I
1440 RETURN
1500 REM SUBROUTINE READ STOCK FIL
E
1510 FOR I=1 TO NR
1520 READ S(I),DESC(I),CP(I),DIS(I)
1530 READ S(I)
1540 NEXT I
```

```
1550 RETURN
1600 REM SUBROUTINE PRINT OPTIONS:1
MENU:
1610 CLS:REM CLEAR SCREEN
1620 PRINT" SAMPLE STOCK FI
LE"
1630 PRINT
1640 PRINT" 1.....DISPLAY FILE"
1650 PRINT
1660 PRINT" 2.....EDIT RECORD"
1670 PRINT
1680 PRINT" 3.....SORT FILE"
1690 PRINT
1700 PRINT" 4.....END"
1710 PRINT
1720 RETURN
1800 REM SUBROUTINE DISPLAY FILE
1810 GOSUB 1900:REM DISPLAY HEADIN
G
1820 FOR I=1 TO NR
1830 S=IN1(I)
1840 GOSUB 2000:REM DISPLAY RECORD
1850 NEXT I
1860 PRINT
1870 PRINT"PRESS RETURN TO CONTIN
UE"
1880 INPUT AS
1890 RETURN
1900 REM SUBROUTINE DISPLAY HEADIN
G
1910 CLS:REM CLEAR SCREEN
1920 PRINT"NUMBER DISC COST REP
IN STC
1930 RETURN
2000 REM DISPLAY A PARTICULAR RECD
NR
2010 PRINT S(NR);TAB(17);DESC(NR);TAB
(14);
2020 PRINTCP(NR);TAB(19);DIS(NR);TAB(1
25);
2030 PRINT IS(NR)
2040 PRINT
2050 RETURN
```



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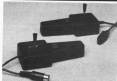
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# MIKE GERRARDS ADVENTURE TRAIL

"I WOULD like to say how much I like the addition of the adventure column," says reader David Cochrane of North Shields. Thank you, David, you can write again. "But," he goes on, "... what's this? BUT?" "But I would like to see a permanent Help feature."

Well, a Help feature rather depends on readers writing in to ask, for help, and in the first month or two we didn't receive too many letters. But, now they're starting to come in quite regularly and we'll be happy to try and deal with both hints and helps. So, this month's column will be devoted mainly to the readers, including one who's bravely submitted his own adventure and asked for "constructive criticism." Would I give any other hints?

Having requested the Help column, David Cochrane offers to set the ball rolling by helping any readers who are stuck in Winterscroft's *Return of the Ring*, which he recently completed and which he also highly recommends. If you need help, send a stamped addressed envelope to David at 115 Grey Street, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE26 2BQ. In fact, if writing to anyone send an SAE — and that includes me! (going to my local Post Office to buy vast amounts of stamps is an adventure in itself, but one I prefer to avoid). If leads to things like STAMP FOOT, EXAMINE WATCH and KILL DIOITS.

Back to thoughts of co-operation, though, and a heart-felt plea from S. Harrison, also of Tyne and Wear: "I am currently trying to complete Dragon Dials. El Clabbers and it's driving me up the wall. I have painted the magic book, taken the eagle's feather, have done what the talking threats told me but I cannot find any castles (stones) to dip my magic twig in!"

## Up the wall

If anyone has successfully completed El Clabbers then they can win themselves several Hints for life as this seems to be one of the most puzzling adventures. Don't turn to me for help because I only got a copy of it this week. ... that's my excuse, anyway. If you wish to help S. Harrison, then the wall he or she is being driven up is at 15 Pembroke, Cadoxide, Warrington, Tyne and Wear NE16 3LJ.

I'd like to thank Adam Atkinson for my copy of El Clabbers; at least I think I'd like to thank him as all too done so far is

wander aimlessly round a desert in the one session I had with the adventure. Adam is obviously a seasoned adventurer, having completed *Madness* and the *Microdot*; *Ring of Darkness* and *Return of the Ring*, but he too is stamped by El Clabbers, where he can't stop the mother eagle killing him, and doesn't know what the snake, lizard and crow see for. He also can't get the boards off the door in Black Sandstorm, so D-I-Y hints to Adam at P28 Blacktop Hotel, Trinity College, Cambridge CB9 1TQ. I completed *Black Sand-*



tan myself in one long sitting, but don't keep any notes and now can't remember how I did get the boards off the door. Memo to myself: always keep notes and maps!

B Buck of 31 Westcott Road, Swindon, Wiltshire would like to know how to cross the water and mountains in *Ring of Darkness*, while Steve Barrett of 126 The Mackintosh, Daventry, Northants NN11 6QX offers help to anyone stuck in *Madness* and the *Microdot*.

There are a couple of readers looking for help, but I can't try and fit them up without their full addresses. Kenan Cleary wrote from County Tipperary, looking for help on *Dragon Dials*'s *Cameron Moon*, but I can't read Kenan's address clearly ... write again, Kenan. And write again Lionel Depeux of Auzances-Gains in France. I

replied to Lionel's long letter, but it was returned to me as his address was incomplete. Lionel's amusing letter complained that his mind was falling to pieces thanks to ... what else, El Clabbers! His main problem is that he can't leave the desert, have dipped his twig in "his certain place". If anyone can help Lionel, or is just interested in getting in touch with a French adventurer, write to me and I'll forward the letter or when I hear from Lionel.

N Smith of 26 Alcester Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 5HH was stuck in several places in *Salamander's* *Franklin's Tomb*. N Smith's lands were the Aquarium and the PS, and he or she was also unable to spin the sails. I've passed some help-on to the reader, courtesy of Lucy Parker at Salamander, who said she was looking forward to seeing her name in print.

## No hints

Salamander do offer help sheets for all their adventures, and if you're feeling starved of new games then they have produced 10 hints versions of two adventures. For 65 each you can have versions of *Franklin in Wonderland* and *White Cliffs of Dover*, though they come without covers or instructions. I don't think that matters too much, and I'll be having a longer look at one of these next time, when there's a little more space.

On another topic, what chance has a reader got of marketing a Dragon adventure? Tony McGhee has written *The Mary Celeste*, there's a very nice loading screen, with a quick burst of organ-like music, and you begin on the bridge of a deserted ship.

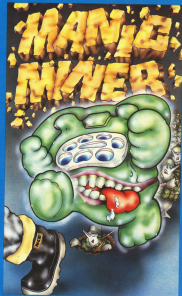
There are some good routines included, such as the pirate ship which attacks at one point, giving you just 12 moves to defend yourself — this has you running around looking for gunpowder, cannons, pistols ... anything! You should eliminate some of those sudden death routines, though. Tony, if you're interested, contact Tony at 54 Arundell Drive, Barnsley, S. Yorks S7N 5LJ.

And if you're interested in asking for or offering help then contact me at Dragon User, and we'll deal with as many of the letters as space permits. Next month a look at those Salamander titles, and the problems of Wigan's *Satanica*. ■





There's *WILLY*, while prospecting these Southern-style suburbs again in ancient, long forgotten, uncharted, uncharted, uncharted, in the depths of a real civilization for resources to use even in such recent circumstances to dig deep into the Earth's core to supply the essential raw materials for their advanced industry. After centuries of peace and prosperity, the civilization has been torn apart by war, and exposed into a long dark night, surrounding their industry and raw mines. Nobody, however, thought to cut the mine shafts to stop working, and through countless years they had slowly accumulated a huge stockpile of valuable metals and minerals, and they *WILLY* realizes that for some time they should start to make his fortune by finding the underground stores. In order to move to the next chapter, you must collect all the *WILLY* keys to the mine while avoiding countless traps (Poisonous Fumes and Spikes and Mines and more of all). *WILLY* Mining Machine. When you have all the keys, you can enter the portal which will now be *WILLY*. The game ends where you have been 'out' or before finally (three times).



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# Bookbytes

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**Book:** *Dragon Programs*  
**Author:** Nick Hamperie  
**Publisher:** Duckworth  
**Price:** £8.95

SOMETHING OLD, something new... runs the old adage, which might also be said in some respects to reflect this collection of 28 routines for the Dragon 32. Certainly, there is variety here. Whatever your taste, programmer John Alshaw provides a wide assortment of material, with old favourites such as Hangman lying cheek by jowl with the newer style space invaders.

In some respects the book is a little too general, and in trying to cover such a wide range of material some of the individual programs tend to be a little on the sparse side, an impression which is not helped by the unusual 'side-ways' format in which the entire book is printed. This is done, presumably, to allow the full 80-character wide printout of the listings to run along the

selected when starting from 'cold'.

Minor points, maybe, but it is these which tend to let the book down. There are major omissions, full of listings, and a book, therefore, should just have that little extra attention to detail.

Gordon Lee

**Book:** *A Pocket Handbook for the Dragon*

**Authors:** Peter Gerrard and Denny Doyle

**Publisher:** Duckworth

**Price:** £3.95

WHETHER I am programming I find nothing more irritating than forgetting a memory location, character code, or special POKE. I have often contemplated the idea of gathering all the useful bits from various magazines together to form a sort of 'handbook'.

The job has been done for me by Messrs Gerrard and Doyle who have produced possibly the most useful book the Dragon programmer will ever find. At £7 it would represent good value, at £3.95 it's a gem!

Within the covers lie 160 pages of very useful information for programmers including ASCII tables, character codes (for MIC users), formulae for hypothesis functions, details of the connectors to the centronics, cassette and joystick ports, the complete 9500 instruction set, a comprehensive memory map, and more of the same. The information is arranged in alphabetical order, is spaced out and presented clearly and attractively.

But, the book does have its flaws. For every useful thing in the book, another equally useful thing has been left out. For example, where are the memory addresses on the 'Print & Goto', or the pokes enabling one to get into the 14 graphics modes so tantalisingly described? Where are details of vectors for the random number ROM routine, or the routine to print the NUMBER in the D-register? Where is any reference made to paging, or how to PCLEARN 1 after having used PHODE 4?

The book is also printed in a very strange way — it is almost like a series of equally sized photocopied sheets bound together. Some of the

pages are professionally printed, some of them are dumped from a Dot-Matrix Printer, some are even hand-written for reasons known only to the authors.

But, despite these faults, the book is still a must for any Dragon owner who wishes to progress further than writing 'Guess the Number' and 'Mafia Quiz' programs and will always have a place beside my Dragon. Buy it.

Jason Orsman

**Book:** *Introducing Pascal*

**Author:** Boris Allan

**Publisher:** Granada

**Price:** £3.95

BORIS ALLAN is a well known author in microcomputing circles, and his latest book, introducing Pascal is a very well presented Pascal text. As Pascal is a 'structured' language, Allan has tried to teach it in a 'structured' fashion and I think the approach works well.

The book starts by giving the 'feel' of Pascal, the reasons behind its development, and the basic concepts involved in the language. Later chapters go into more detail about the language, ending up with a look at Pascal's future prospects. There are several useful appendices including one about Modula-2, the language derived from Pascal, and one describing P-Code, which is used to implement more popular Pascal compilers.

Pascal is not a language which can be learned without trying practical examples on a computer. Dragon owners are particularly badly served in this respect, because unless you have Pico or CQ98, there isn't a single proper Pascal compiler on the market. However, if you have access

to an implementation somewhere, and you want to learn Pascal, this is a very good book to learn from. It is written in readable style, and there are lots of examples. At just under £7 it must represent excellent value for money — what more can I say?

David Rowntree

**Book:** *The Beginner's Guide to Forth*

**Author:** David Johns

**Publisher:** Interface

**Price:** £2.95

IF YOU ask the ubiquitous 'what is the best' to name three computer languages they will give the standard reply BASIC, PASCAL and FORTH. FORTH is rather different from the other languages as it has no line-by-line program structure, concentrating instead on the build-up of a vocabulary, from basic (and pun intended) beginnings.

A FORTH program looks daunting to the average BASIC programmer, partly because of its structure and partly because of the fact that it uses Reverse-Polish notation.

Several FORTH compilers are now on the market for the Dragon (with such imaginative names as 'Dragon-Forth') and the book, by David Johns, although not Dragon specific provides a very good introduction to the language, but sadly, not a perfect introduction. Although most people will find it very easy and quite relaxing to read, others will be driven to distraction by this 'True Peter' approach to programming.

The text is very large (and yet the book only covers 86 pages, hence...) and the listings are of slight printer dumps and therefore theoretically perfect.

The appendices are the most useful part of the book, containing as they do, a complete FORTH dictionary, a list of the standard FG-FORTH error messages, and the obligatory ASCII character set!

Thus, I'm sorry to say, is one of the books that the FORTH beginner will have to see before buying. I would advise any interested parties to read the first two chapters in the shop and then make their choice.

Jason Orsman



length of the page, but with the majority of the program lines less than half this length, there tends to be a predominance of white paper.

Overall, if there is something that appeals to you — fear From a personal point of view, I always feel that, for example, text adventures in BASIC entered in from the keyboard are never really satisfactory, probably because in typing them in you get a fair idea of the alternatives, and any sense of 'surprise' is consequently missing. I would also have liked to have seen programs using the random function utilizing an RND%T/100 routine to achieve true random randomness, and so avoid the same sequence being

















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**FIGURE 12** Configuration memory map. Note system I/O locations (large box) = 10000000h to 100000000h. See Figure 10 for details. (Source: [15])

1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1997, 34, 1, 1-14.

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[illegible]

**Figure 6**

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### Abstract

Telephone.....

Please cut out and send this form to: Classified Department, Dragon User, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 2LN



# Solid state for waxworks

Gordon Lee presents another mind-boggling problem for puzzle solvers

ONE OF THE more frequently encountered terms in the field of recreational mathematics is that of "triangular" numbers. These, together with their more familiar neighbours, the "square" numbers form the basis for a number of interesting problems.

If we take a single coin (or counter) and place it on the table we have the first "triangular" number. Now if we place two more beneath it to form an equilateral triangular pattern, the three coins produce the second "triangular" number, 3. By adding extra rows of coins in the same

general pattern we can extend the pattern **ad infinitum**. Clearly, the series of numbers is generated by the formula  $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + \dots$  the first six terms being: 1, 3, 6, 10, 15 and 21. Ten-pin bowlers will recognise the "10" pattern as the layout of pins on the bowling alley, and snooker players the "10" as the arrangement of the red balls at the commencement of the game.

There are a number of properties of "triangular" numbers that can prove helpful when it comes to solving puzzles involving these numbers. For example, a triangular number can only have a digital root of 1, 3, 6 or 9. Also, the sum of any two consecutive triangular numbers is equal to a perfect square.

A perfect square can also be obtained from the expression  $5n + 1$  where  $n$  is any triangular number. This forms the basis of a useful test to determine if a given number is triangular or not. If right, then the number plus one is a perfect square. (See the number is triangular.)

Finally on the subject of triangular numbers, the  $n$ th number of the series can be found from the equation  $N = n(n+1)/2$ .

## Infinite number

The "square" numbers are too well known to need further explanation except to consider them in relation to the triangular numbers. For example, are there any numbers that are **both** triangular and square? In fact, there are an infinite number of them, the first three being: 1, 36, 1225, 41616, 1413721, 46094880 and 143243281. After this the number becomes very large indeed!

We ought now to look at the three-dimensional counterparts of triangular and square numbers — the tetrahedral and pyramidal numbers respectively. Both of these numbers might be best visualised in the form of, for example, a stack of tins in a supermarket display. So, if they were arranged on a "triangular" base they would be "tetrahedral" in form. Each layer, counting down from the apex would consist of a successive triangular number (1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 21) and by taking the cumulative total of each layer — again from the top we would arrive at the tetrahedral series of numbers 1, 4, 10, 20, 35, 55 etc. Similarly, if the structure were built on a square base, each

layer being successive square numbers, we obtain the **pyramidal series**: 1, 8, 27, 64, 125, 216 etc.

Having considered earlier numbers that are both triangular and square, we can see from the few numbers already listed other inter-relationships between some of these series. For instance, 10 is both triangular and tetrahedral, while 35 is both triangular and pyramidal.

Unfortunately, not all of the inter-relationships are as easy to find. For example, it is unlikely that there is a number, apart from the trivial case of unity, that is both tetrahedral and pyramidal. If one exists, it will be incredibly large. Similarly, it has been proved that apart from 1 there are only two numbers that are both square and tetrahedral, and only one that is square and pyramidal.



This month's competition involves some coloured wooden blocks. I have a large collection of painted cubes of wood, coloured red, blue and green. The red blocks alone can be arranged into a square formation or a tetrahedron. If I add the blue blocks, the red and blue together can also be arranged into a larger square or into a pyramid. Finally, by adding the green blocks, the entire set can form a third square, and again can be built into another tetrahedron.

How many of each colour have I?

## Prize

CHANNEL 4 Software is offering 20 readers the chance to win Waxworks, its latest adventure for the Dragon.

## November winner

THE SOLUTION to the November puzzle is that there are 17 chambers out of 25 that a white counter will be picked. Only 17 people sent in the correct solution, but each winner receives a copy of Waxworks House's Forest goes Sailing. The winners are: Brian Hughes of Houston, J Peter of Kent, D Pauline of Pocklington, Patrice Gagnard of France, Jan Chabrows of Bertham, R Quinn of Northampton, Colin Slinger of Rochdale, Paul Priestland of Linslade, A Douglas of Salford, M Jagoe of Coventry, M Smith of Birmingham, S Baker of Huddersfield, Paul Bennett at Mosley, P Baker at Liverpool, S Hutchinson of Cheshire, M Stoddard of Devon and P De Quady of Jersey.

## Rules

TO WIN a copy of the game you must show both the answer to the competition and how to solve it with the use of a Basic program developed on your Dragon. Prizes do not send in a cassette containing the answer. As a tie-breaker complete the following sentence in 15 words or less: "I would like a new Dragon because..."

Your entry must arrive at Dragon User by the last working day of February. The winners and the solution of the quiz will be published in our May issue. Entries will not be acknowledged and we cannot enter into correspondence on the result.



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